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A NEW STAR IN *GEMINI.*

A telegram received at the Lick Observatory on March 27th announced the discovery at Oxford, England, of a new star in the constellation *Gemini.*

Cloudy weather prevented observations here until the night of April 1st, when the star was found to be of about 8.5 magnitude. Notes on the photographic and spectrographic observations will be found on another page. In addition to these, micrometric measures were made connecting the *Nova* with five faint stars that are well-placed for detecting any parallactic or proper motion it may have. It was the intention also to watch the brightness of the *Nova* closely, to see whether its light fluctuated as did that of *Nova Persei.* But cloudy weather interfered so much with this part of the program that no conclusions can be drawn from the observations. The star has gradually faded, however, and is now about 10th magnitude.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 21, 1903.

OBSERVATIONS OF *NOVA GEMINORUM* MADE WITH THE CROSSLEY REFLECTOR.*

Stormy weather prevented any observation of Turner's *Nova* until April 1st. On this date a photograph of the region was secured with an exposure of $1^h 46^m$, as well as a number of short exposures. No traces of any nebulosity were to be seen about the star, as in the case of *Nova Persei.* This result was not surprising, considering that in all probability the magnitude of the outburst was much less. These plates showed that *Nova Geminorum* was considerably brighter photographically than visually, notwithstanding its reddish color. At this time it was estimated as of 8½ visual magnitude. Short-exposure photographs were obtained on several succeeding nights for measurement.

The position of the *Nova,* as derived from two of these plates, using six catalogue stars, is as follows:—

1903.		R. A., 1903 0	Decl., 1903.0
April 1.	Plate No. 1298............	$6^h\ 38^m\ 0^s.50$	$+\ 30^\circ\ 2'\ 28''.7$
5.	" 1309............	0.47	28 .7

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* Abstract of L. O. Bulletin, No. 37.

A number of the faint stars near the *Nova* were measured, and their positions follow:—

		Date, April 5. Plate No. 1310.		Date, April 8. Plate No. 1316.	
Star.	**Magnitude.**	p °	s "	p °	s "
a	10	0.53	369.80	0.53	369.80
b	13	17.30	103.01	16.95	102.93
c	9.5	59.88	585.50	59.95	585.51
d	14	104.78	32.01	105.05	32.00
e	11	114.05	334 80	114 03	334 72
f	15	170.60	45.34	169.82	45.51
g	14	196.67	85.04	196.55	84.84
h	11	219.08	434.06	219.10	433.77
i	10	261.62	316.68	261.68	316.56
j	9 4	276.57	465.23	276.58	465.14
k	13	314.05	100.16	313.88	100 27

Star *j* is B. D. + 30° 1309.

The spectrum was photographed with the slitless spectrograph, with varying exposures and on several nights. The negatives show the usual bright lines which have been observed in other new stars in their early history, together with considerable continuous spectrum.

The following lines were measured on a plate taken on April 2, 1903:—

λ 486	$H\beta$	Bright.
462		Very bright.
446		Faint.
434	$H\gamma$	Very bright.
410	$H\delta$	“ “
397	$H\epsilon$	Bright.
389	$H\zeta$	Faint.
384	$H\eta$	Maximum.
374	$H\kappa$	“
350		“
335		End of spectrum.

The positions 384, 374, and 350 are the maximum of what appear to be bands with this low dispersion. The maxima at λ374 and λ350 are near the positions of two very bright lines in *Nova Persei,* which were observed by Dr. STEBBINS after the spectrum of that star had become nebular. Two lines at about the same wave-lengths were discovered in some of the well-known nebulæ by Dr. PALMER. In *Nova Geminorum* these lines are not yet developed, and are relatively very much weaker than they were in *Nova Persei*. As there are no early observations of this portion of the spectrum of *Nova Persei*, it is not possible to draw any conclusions as to these lines. It seems reasonable to expect, however, that they will develop along with the other nebular lines. C. D. PERRINE.

THE SPECTRUM OF *NOVA GEMINORUM*.

The spectrum of *Nova Geminorum* was observed, both visually and photographically at the Lick Observatory, with a spectroscope consisting of a single flint-prism mounted in conjunction with the collimator and camera of the regular Mills spectrograph. Unfortunately, unfavorable weather prevented any observations before April 1st, but after that date spectrograms were obtained on several evenings, both in the blue-violet region, and, by the use of isochromatic plates, in the visual part of the spectrum. The spectrum consists of broad, bright bands with some continuous spectrum. In its general features it resembles somewhat the spectrum of *Nova Persei* in March 1901, and also that in August of the following year; probably the star at its discovery had reached a stage in its development midway between those of *Nova Persei* at these two dates. Many of the bands coincide approximately with the lines of the hydrogen spectrum, and though a number of them could not be identified with hydrogen-lines, there was no certain trace of the so-called "nebular-lines," except the principal line λ 5007.

Between the date of the first spectrogram, April 2d, and that of the last, May 4th, the spectrum showed definite changes, but they are of such a nature that it cannot be said whether or not they indicate a progression toward the nebular type.

H. M. REESE.
H. D. CURTIS.

NOVA GEMINORUM.

The first opportunity of obtaining a long exposure on *Nova Geminorum* with the Crossley reflector, occurred on April 22d, 23d, and 24th, when a duration of $6^h\ 29^m$ was secured.